

Canine Bulletin

Nebraska Task Force - 1

November 2001

Type II Canine Readiness Evaluation

Submitted by Dewey Perks, VA-TF1

Virginia Task Force 1, sponsored by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, will conduct a Type II Canine Readiness Evaluation November 30 - December 3, 2001 at the Department's Fire & Rescue Training Academy. While this evaluation is open to all task forces within the national Urban Search and Rescue Response System, priority will be given to canine teams from Division C.

The candidate pool for this evaluation will be limited to no more than 16-teams, including those from Virginia Task Force 1. IF that number is not reached, consideration will be given to including teams from other non-FEMA search and rescue entities. There will also be the opportunity for no more than six (6) Shadow Evaluators, also including those from the host task force, to be involved in this process. Candidates for either portion will be accepted on a first come-first served basis.

Applications for this process are available on the FEMA web page in the Canine Readiness Evaluation Standard and once completed are to be faxed to Garrett Dyer at (703) 246-9173. Question concerning the process may also be addressed to Garrett by either calling him at (703) 246-4833, or e-mail at garrettdyer@vatf1.org. Closing for the application process will be November 23, 2001. No applications will be accepted after that date. Hotel reservations will be suspended as of 18 November for this that require lodging.

An orientation will be held at 1900 hours on November 30, 2001 at the Academy located at 4600 West Ox Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. The formal evaluation will be conducted, using the current Canine Readiness Evaluation Standards posted on the FEMA web page, on October 1, 2001.

Once candidates have been accepted, each will be supplied logistics instructions.

Note to handlers who deployed to the World Trade Center and Pentagon

Submitted by: Lynne Engelbert

There is a very important medical study being conducted regarding the health of the canines that worked the World Trade Center and Pentagon. This is an important study and I hope each of you will participate. It has never been done and should give us some very important information.

For more information about this study please contact me at: lengelbert@mail.arc.nasa.gov



NE-TF1 Canine Handlers: Monica Barger, Eric Jones, Elaine Sawtell, Ditto, Deborah Goodman, One Soc, Hershel McAlister and Max



Canines in New York City: Max, Ditto, Louie, and One Soc

A word about integrity

Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell

Good timing, thoughtful training, self-discipline and perseverance are all qualities of the often overlooked member of the Canine Search Specialist Team - The Handler.



Zima

In the final analysis, however, more important than the sum of these skills is the foundation on which they rest.

We in NE-TF1 set standards for our dogs' performance. In connection with our recent deployment, Monica and Eric set the standard for handler integrity. They set it high. May each of us have the honesty and grace to do the same when the time comes.

Priorities

Submitted by: Hershel McAlister

I have read several good articles in this newsletter about dogs and dog training, and let's face it; that is what this newsletter is all about, or is it?

As trainers, we have always prioritized how, when and where we train our dogs, but we often miss our most important priority.



Hershel McAlister and Max

Even though it should seem obvious it still often goes unnoticed or unattended for whatever reason. And that is our personal life, because until you get your life in order, it is very difficult to focus on a good training program. I know that most of you have not seen or heard from me in over a year. So that's one reason for this article. I feel I owe you at least that much. And second if training is not going well take two steps backwards and evaluate your life. How many times have you been reminded that your attitude is quickly picked up at the other end of that lead?

As most of you know, Sheila (my wife) and I adopted two children. Anna is 5 years old now and Adam is 3 years old. Adam was 9 months old when we adopted him with a lot of problems that we were unaware of. Shortly after we arrived home problems began to unravel. Then we discovered from our adoption agency that Adam had been abused. Sheila and I had no idea how to handle this, and found ourself's constantly at

Priorities Continued on page 3

NE-TF1 deployment policy

Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell

The basis for our Deployment Policy (page 3, Canine Search Guide) is the desire of the task force to deploy only qualified teams and do so in a fair and equitable manner.

It reads: NE-TF1 will only deploy those Canine Search Specialist teams who have met the following criteria:

1. FEMA certified teams, actively training.
2. Teams considered Qualified under NE-TF1 guidelines.

Under no circumstances will a canine search specialist team be deployed who is not certified or qualified.

Except in extenuating circumstances, Type I (Advanced) teams will always precede Type II (Basic) teams, and Type II will always precede Qualified teams. Teams will be deployed on a rotational basis within each category."

Also required for deployment is submission of monthly training logs (page 9). Besides being just good training procedure, submission of these logs is at the specific request of task force leadership to chronicle for FEMA the volumes of time spent by volunteers in our capacity.

The Canine Health Record, required annually of all teams (page 7 – see July 2001 newsletter), may just be the time when you discover a subtle or potential health problem.

Policy Continued on page 3

Priorities from page 2

each other. Our world as we knew it was falling apart and we didn't know how to stop it! The situation went from bad to worse. We finally decided we had to have help before our marriage ended in divorce. We ended up with four therapists to help Adam 3 - 4 days per week. Somewhere along the line they missed one for the two of us. (Did I really say that!)? With the therapists showing, and telling us what to do, Adam began to come around and show progress, but it came slow. Even though Adam was making progress, Sheila and I were still harboring bad feeling toward each other (NO - YOU SAY). We still remained active in church, or should I say we were still going through the motions OR SO I THOUGHT. Well God placed in on my heart to get my nose in that book we all know as the Bible, and I did and he did, open my heart and my mind that is, and changed my life in the way I view things. Sheila and I have now been married almost 16 years with the last year being one of the best! Adam has come along with only speech/language therapy remaining, and you know why, because of PRIORITIES!

So, let's sum this all up shall we. That is what we trainers like to do, RIGHT?

1. God
2. Family
3. Dogs (What else?)

In closing, I know you are probably thinking it so, I should clarify it; yes the deployment put me back in motion to reestablish my third love but this time it's with full support from my family. So when life is not going the way you think, it should make lemons or is it lemonade? Better yet take a serious look at your life and see if YOUR priorities could use some tweaking. You just might be surprised at how much better your dog will do as well.

Policy from page 2

Unwritten but vital for deployment is maintaining contact with the task force. When you will be out of town or unavailable for a known length of time (vacation, dog/handler injury, etc.), please advise Steve or myself. This is very helpful when we need to locate teams quickly, especially since the majority of us are so distant from Lincoln.

We currently have six certified teams. Experience has taught us that ANY of the six may be needed, and needed fast! No matter where you are on the list, if you are available for deployment, **be ready, be packed and be accessible!**

Deployable teams: (October 2001)

1. Amy Rising and Louie, Type I
2. Elaine Sawtell and Ditto, Type I
3. Monica Barger and Zima, Type II
4. Eric Jones and Ren, Type II
5. Deborah Goodman and OneSoc, Type II
6. Hershel McAlister and Max, Type I (due 8-01)



Canine team members receive donation

Submitted by: John Huff

The Lincoln Fire & Rescue Department has received several donations earmarked for the canine members of our USAR team. The American Kennel Club has provided a gift to each task force that responded to the WTC, Pentagon and in Pennsylvania totaling \$2,000 for each task force to benefit search dogs and their handlers. NE-TF1 will utilize this generous gift to benefit canine members of the team.

The Cornhusker Kennel Club and the Midland Shetland Sheepdog Club have generously provided \$696.00 for the purchase of an individual K9 Sling Harness for each of our current certified canine team members. This will allow each team member to have this equipment issued to them.

NE-TF1 Canine Training Schedule 2001

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

	Lincoln Training
	Springfield Training
	Kansas City Training
	Canine Bulletin Articles Due
	Holiday

How Do I Submit Items for the Canine Bulletin

Mail, E-mail, or Fax items to:

Julie Marget
Lincoln Fire & Rescue
1801 "Q" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
jmarget@ci.lincoln.ne.us
Fax: 441-8292
Phone: 441-8352

Address/Phone

Changes

Also contact

Julie



Mail your training logs to:

Sandy Yost
1801 "Q" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508